

EPPING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

including the Report of the



Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the year ending December 31st, 1951.

E P P I N G U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L.

To the Chairman and Members of
The Epping Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector for the year ending 31st December, 1951, on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Epping Urban District.

The Birth Rate was 14.8 per 1,000 population (the figure for 1950 was 16.2) and the Death Rate was 11.2 per 1,000 population (the figure for 1950 being 12.3). With a total of 102 births and 77 deaths there was a natural increase in population of 25, but the Registrar General estimated our population at 6,872, an increase of 52 on the previous year.

The Infant Mortality Rate, i.e., the Death Rate of infants under 1 year, was 19.6 per 1,000 live births which is below the figure for England and Wales of 29.6 per 1,000 live births.

Infectious Diseases.

During 1951 five new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, two of which were inmates of St. Margaret's Hospital (coming under the heading of "No Fixed Abode"). The disease again caused one death, as in the previous year.

In connection with the National Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign a Mass Radiography Unit of the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board visited Epping in September 1951. A total of 697 persons (413 men and 284 women) volunteered for X-ray examination on miniature films, and of these 37 were recalled for further examination on large films. One case of active tuberculosis was discovered and 17 persons showed signs of previous infection with pulmonary tuberculosis.

As in 1950, no case of diphtheria occurred. During the year under review there were 102 births, and during the same period

a total of 65 children under one year of age were immunised against diphtheria. This represents a percentage rate of 66%, and may be regarded as very satisfactory when compared with the rate for the County as a whole which is only 28%. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Health considers it essential that not less than 75% of babies should be immunised by the time they reach one year old. Thus it will be appreciated that even the figure 66% leaves room for improvement in the future, and it is important to emphasise that there should be no relaxation in our efforts to encourage all parents to have their children immunised if we are to avoid diphtheria again becoming a prevalent disease.

Food Poisoning.

Symptoms suggestive of food poisoning occurred on the 11th May, 1951 among 12 children taking school dinners at Theydon Garnon School. The symptoms were mild, and only one parent called in the family doctor.

The usual investigations were made, but unfortunately no unconsumed portions of the meal were available for examination, and no definite cause for the outbreak was discovered.

National Health Service Act, 1946.

Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by the County Council as Local Health Authority. No difficulties have been experienced, and, during 1951, these Part III services have continued as in previous years.

In conclusion I again take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the help and co-operation afforded me by the staff of the Public Health Department, and to Dr. F.G. Brown, Area Medical Officer (Forest Health Area), for some of the statistics included in this Report, and finally also to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their help and support during 1951.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. L. PATTON,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

E P P I N G U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L.

PUBLIC H E A L T H C O M M I T T E E:

Chairman: Councillor A.L. Fosh.

Members:

Councillor Mrs. E.F. Hayden
" F.R. Hutton
" Mrs. F.M. Pollitt
" E.A. Sebbage
" G. Temple

P U B L I C H E A L T H S T A F F:

Medical Officer of Health:
DR. J.L. PATTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health:
MRS. I.M. STOCK.

Sanitary Inspector:
MR. H.J. MEAD, M.S.I.A., F.I.A.S., M.R.S.I.

Clerk:
MRS. K. CRABB.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	1,440
Population, Registrar General's estimate ...	6,872
Population 1951 Census (Provisional)	6,934
Rateable Value at 31st March, 1951	£43,152
Rateable Value at 31st March, 1952	£44,086
Sum represented by a penny rate for the financial year ended 31st March, 1951	£166.0.4.
The rate in the pound of the general rate was:	
for the financial year 1950/51	£1.
" " " 1951/52	£1.2.3.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	51	49	100
Illegitimate	1	1	<u>2</u>
	Total:		102

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population ... 14.8

	Male.	Female.	Total.
STILL BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	1	2	<u>3</u>
Illegitimate	0	0	<u>0</u>
	Total:		3

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ... 28.6

	Male.	Female.	Total.
DEATHS:	39	38	77
	(Registrar General's Figures)		

Death Rate per 1,000 population ... 11.2

	Male.	Female.	Total.
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR:			
Legitimate	0	1	<u>1</u>
Illegitimate	1	0	<u>1</u>
	Total:		2

Death rate of infants under 1 year (per 1,000 live births): 19.6

	Male.	Female.	Total
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS:			
Legitimate	0 1 1
Illegitimate	1 0 1
			Total: 2

MATERNAL DEATHS:

Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis ...	...	...	0
Other maternal causes ...	...	...	0
			Total: 0

CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE
REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR THE YEAR 1951.

	Male.	Female.	Total
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1 0 1	
Influenza	2 1 3	
Diabetes	1 0 1	
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	1 0 1	
Cancer (all forms)	...	6 9 15	
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System	...	4 6 10	
Heart Disease	...	9 12 21	
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	0 2 2	
Pneumonia	3 1 4	
Digestive Diseases	...	1 0 1	
Hyperplasia of the Prostate	...	3 0 3	
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	1 0 1	
Congenital Malformations & Birth Trauma	...	1 0 1	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	1 1 2	
Suicide	...	2 0 2	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	3 6 9	
Totals:	39	38	77

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES
IN THE YEAR 1951.

(Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns).

Rates per 1,000 population.

	England and Wales.	126 Co. & Great Towns. (includ- ing London.)	148 Smal. Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census.)	London Epping Adm. Urban County Dist.
BIRTHS: Live Births ...	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8 14.8
Still Births ..	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37 0.50
DEATHS: All Causes ...	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1 11.2

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.
Scarlet Fever	8	4	9	6
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	...	0	1	0	0
Erysipelas	0	1	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	10	10	2	20
Measles	15	164	10	82 173
Whooping Cough	...	12	40	16	30 26
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	0	0	1	0
Dysentery	10	0	11	1 15
Infective Hepatitis	0	0	1	0
Pneumonia	5	2	4	3 4
Poliomyelitis - paralytic ...	6	0	2	0	0
- non-paralytic ...				0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0	17

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

						Cases Notified.	
						1950.	1951.
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	30	26
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	82	173
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	9	6
Puerperal Tyrexia	....	...	...	...	...	0	20
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	0	17
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	1	15
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Tuberculosis (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	6	5

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Laboratory Facilities.

A Ministry of Health Laboratory operates at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping. Water and ice-cream samples are examined at the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66, Queen Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Milk samples are examined at the Institute of Agriculture, Writtle.

Hospitals.

The district is served by various Hospitals under the Epping Group Hospital Management Committee.

Child Welfare.

The Local Health Authority is the Essex County Council. Clinics are held at the following times and places:-

EPPING: The Combined Treatment Centre, 15, Regent Road, Epping provides the following services:-

An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at 2.30 p.m. on each Monday afternoon, a Women's Welfare Clinic is held at 2 p.m. on the second Friday in the month by appointment, where advice is given about Family

Planning. Attendances at this clinic in 1951 totalled 75.

A Child Welfare Centre is held on Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m. Attendances of children under 5 years of age totalled 1,727 in 1951. Diphtheria Immunisation is carried out at the Child Welfare Centre every Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m.

School children's minor ailments every Thursday afternoon at 1.45 p.m., where a Doctor is in regular attendance. Appointments are arranged for Eye, Orthoptic, Orthopaedic and Speech Therapy Clinics.

School Health Service.

The Education Authority is the Essex County Council. School Nurses inspect the children regularly and there is a medical inspection at each school at least once a year.

Tuberculosis.

A Chest Clinic is held at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping, every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and every Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All cases now seen by appointment only.

During the year the Care Association covering Chigwell, Epping, Waltham Abbey and Ongar districts continued to do useful work. The Association assists cases waiting admission to sanatorium in various ways, and arranges for the admission of child contacts to a convalescent home. It concerns itself also with the after care of patients by assistance in obtaining materials for occupational therapy and whenever possible suitable employment for those fit for work. The Association is supported by voluntary contributions and receives also a grant from the County Council.

The Honorary Secretary is Mr. A.J. Edwarles, 37, Woodland Road, Loughton, Essex.

District Nurses.

District Nurses and Midwives, employed by the Essex County Council, serve the area.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

WATER.

Water continues to be supplied by the Herts and Essex Waterworks Company from wells at Sawbridgeworth and Roydon. Although further discussions have taken place with the Company with regard to softening the supply, owing to restrictions on capital expenditure no definite plans have yet been formulated. Samples taken indicate that the water is still of good standard of bacterial purity and wholly suitable for a public supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

(a) Northern Outfall.

The new extensions although not fully completed were brought into use in June of this year. By the end of the year it was clear that the works were producing a very satisfactory effluent, although some trouble was being experienced with a leakage from the earth banks of the Sludge Digestion Lagoons. Difficulties were also experienced during times of exceptionally heavy storms and arrangements made for the installation of a Regulating Valve to meet this problem. The work of levelling the old Sludge Drying Beds was left over until the summer of 1953.

(b) Southern Outfall.

Owing to shortage of labour and non-delivery of essential equipment, the Contractors responsible for this work were unable to commence operations during 1951. All materials with long delivery periods were, however, ordered and everything arranged for the works to be commenced as early in 1952 as the weather will permit.

(c) Southern Sewerage System.

The Council's Consultants, Messrs. J.D. & D.M. Watson, have been instructed to carry out an investigation of the Southern Sewerage System with a view to locating the source of the very considerable quantity of surface water which finds its way into this System, and ascertaining what steps can be taken to deal with this position.

SCHOOLS.

(a) New Infants School.

Resulting from a reduction in the National School Building programme, it was at one time during the year decided to postpone the erection of the new Infants School off St. John's Road. Urgent representations on the matter were made by this Council, together with other interested bodies with the result that it is now understood that the work will be commenced early in 1952.

The Urban Council did not proceed with the proposal that Non-Traditional Houses be erected forthwith on the extension to St. John's Road, but arranged with the County Council that their contractors should lay such lengths of this road as were necessary to provide access to the new school.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The two lorries continue to maintain a regular weekly Collecting Service including the collection of Waste Paper from domestic and business premises. Towards the end of the year Waste Paper became very scarce and rose to such prices as to attract the attention of outside merchants who were able to pay for paper from business premises, thus depriving the Council of one of their main sources of supply.

This loss required renewed efforts on the part of the Collectors to improve the collection from domestic premises. The introduction of a Bonus Scheme undoubtedly assisted in stimulating their interest in Paper Salvaging.

The Council have continued to approach tenants when new bins are required.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No change.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Both Conveniences continue to be very extensively used. The fact that they are both kept open and alight all night

has undoubtedly lessened the mis-use of these and adjoining premises.

SWIMMING BATH.

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No change.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

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(a) Rats continue to be the only vermin which cause any concern. The general improvement in the food situation appears to have resulted in fewer people keeping chickens with the result that there have been fewer complaints from private dwellinghouses. Business premises particularly in the old part of the High Street and those near open country still require constant attention from the Council's Operator. In accordance with the new Pests Act, 1950 occupiers are now charged for treatments given.

(b) Vermin in Sewers.

Both Sewerage Systems were tested on two occasions when it was found that only the old pipes in the centre of the Town were in any way infested with rats. The numbers present were very small and good results were obtained from poisoning.

HOUSING.

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Despite considerable difficulties and delays by the Contractors, Roads and Sewers (First Stage) on the Beaconfield Estate were eventually completed in 1951. House erection was commenced and although the number completed was comparatively small, at the end of the year there were many other houses nearing completion and the figures for 1952 should be extremely good.

The high cost of the houses on this Estate and the consequent high rents that the Council were obliged to charge caused very considerable concern and a special Sub-Committee was appointed to go fully into the matter. About the same time this question of increased costs was receiving attention by the Ministry. As a result the Architect was instructed to design a house which (excluding Land, Roads and Sewers etc.) could be erected at a cost not exceeding £1,375. This was for a

3-Bedroom House which contained the same living space per room, but in which passage were considerably reduced, elaborate outbuildings replaced by a smaller and very simple building, and with only one W.C. Certain modifications were also made in the Specification and arrangements made for houses of this type to be commenced early in 1952.

New houses and other accommodation available to the Council continued to be let in accordance with the Points Scheme, with Councillors visiting and reporting upon housing applications.

It does appear that the worst cases of overcrowding particularly those resulting from war-time marriages have now been dealt with. Cases now requiring consideration arise very largely from recent marriages where the young married couple remain with one or other of the parents, or where older applicants are living in their own accommodation which by reason of size or condition is considered unsuitable.

(b) Chingford B.C. Development.

During the year there was an entirely new development in the growth of the Town in the form of an application by the Chingford Borough Council to erect 200 houses in this District. The original suggestion was for one large estate to the North of Tower Road and Crows Road, but subsequently it was decided that their requirements could be met by two estates one on the site originally proposed and another immediately adjoining this Council's Beaconfield Estate.

This proposal which was suggested and very strongly supported by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government was agreed to subject to certain conditions which it is hoped will have the effect of safeguarding this Council's own Housing Programme and securing the development of the areas concerned on sound planning lines.

NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

By the Local Authority ...	...	22.
By Private Building Licences ...		5.

		Public Health Acts.	Housing Acts.
(a)	Total no. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	76	20
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	210	98
(c)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit by:-		
1.	Informal action by Local Authorities or Officers ..	17	9
2.	Service of Formal Notices	20	8
3.	Statutory Notices	0	5

Some of the houses included in the above Schedule were many years ago recommended by the then Medical Officer of Health, Dr. H.A. Watney and myself as being suitable for inclusion in Slum Clearance Schemes. The buildings themselves are now in such a condition as to make it extremely difficult to maintain them in a proper habitable condition. Considerable difficulty is experienced in securing attention to repairs since these are for the most part required to houses where the rents are low and controlled and now out of proportion to the cost of building repairs.

In the cases where Statutory Notices were served, repairs were eventually carried out without Court Proceedings being taken.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Food premises generally have received regular supervision and the standard in the district remains satisfactory. Except for an occasional pig killed for private consumption, there is still no slaughtering carried out in this District, and supplies of home killed meat continue to come from Waltham Cross.

There has been a slight increase in the amount of Home Killed and Imported Fresh Meat condemned in this district. There has also been a very considerable increase in the amount of tinned meat which it has been necessary for me to condemn. This position has been general throughout the country, and representations on the subject were made by this and other Authorities to the Ministry of Food. For the most part the food concerned was Tinned

Ham and the results of the Ministry's investigations appeared to suggest that these supplies were exported from the Continent where the canning industry is comparatively new and where methods of preserving and manufacture of tinned cans not sufficiently understood.

FOOD CONDEMNED DURING 1951.

MEAT.

(a) Fresh.

1 Pig's Head (13lbs.2oz)
115 lbs. Calf Meat
35 lbs. Calf Offal
6½ lbs. Topside
10 lbs. Beef
12 lbs. Beef Sausages
1 Hare
80 Frozen Rabbits

(b) Tinned.

1 tin Stewed Steak (16oz)
 2 " Luncheon Meat (4lbs)
 3 " " " (7ozs)
 1 " Beef " " (12ozs)
 2 " Pork " " (4lbs)
 1 " Minced Beef Loaf (16oz)
 4 " Corned Beef
 (6lb. Argentine)
 19 " Ham (Total weight:
 157 lbs. 12 ozs)

FRUIT.

2	tins	Strawberries
4	"	Tomatoes
5	"	Plums
9	"	Cherries
2	"	Peaches
9	"	Cherry Juice
5	"	Apricots
9	"	Apricot Pulp
16	"	Oranges
2	jars	Apricots
1	tin	Blackcurrants
1	"	Mincemeat
1	"	Currant Jam.

FISH.

3 Stone Skate (Wings)
 3 " "
 2 " Melts
 3 " Catfish
 2 tins Salmon

MILK.

14 tins Ideal Milk (Evap.)
1 tin Condensed Milk
1 " Skinned Milk
1 " Full Cream Milk.

VEGETABLES.

1	tin	Tomato Soup	
1	"	Spaghetti	9
1	"	Baked Beans	
5	"	Peas	
3	"	Processed Peas	
3	"	Vegetable Soup	
1	"	Mushroom Soup.	
1	"	Spinach	
15	"	Strained Baby Food (Heinz)	

OTHER ITEMS.

60 Packets Sponge Mixture.
962 Eggs
1 tin Kitcat Cat Food.

MILK.

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There are only 5 cowsheds producing milk for sale for human consumption, and the buildings are kept in a very satisfactory condition.

BAKEHOUSES.

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There is now only one bakehouse in regular use and that is of comparatively recent construction and maintained in very good condition.

ICE-CREAM.

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19 samples were taken during the year of which 11 were satisfactory and 8 unsatisfactory.

The unsatisfactory products are still being manufactured outside Epping. Representations are always made to the Local Authority in whose area the manufacturers' premises are situated, and further samples taken where the product is suspect until good results are obtained.

Samples.

Grade	I	-	2.
"	II	-	8.
"	III	-	3.
"	IV	-	<u>5.</u>

18.

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FACTORIES ACT.

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Regular inspections were carried out and action taken as necessary. Planning action was also taken in connection with three businesses which had been commenced without planning consent and whose position is considered to be unsatisfactory from a planning point of view.

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